

2-6-1998

University of Dayton Duo Delight in Catholic Column for Children

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"University of Dayton Duo Delight in Catholic Column for Children" (1998). *News Releases*. 9188.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/9188

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

Feb. 6, 1998

Contact: Kendra Smith or Pam Huber, huber@udayton.edu

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON DUO DELIGHT IN CATHOLIC COLUMN FOR CHILDREN

DAYTON, Ohio — Barbara and Jim Farrelly have worked as a team for 30 years, and not just as husband and wife. The couple, both full-time faculty members of the University of Dayton's English department, also collaborate in a writing partnership.

"I am the creative one, and Jim is the correct one," says Barbara, an English lecturer.

"Barbara provides the inspiration and the first draft, and I come back and edit," clarifies Jim, an English professor.

The Farrelly team has used this create-and-correct method throughout the 17 years they have written "A Month of Sundays," a regular feature in the national monthly publication *Today's Catholic Teacher*.

Teachers in Catholic schools use the articles, which follow the Sunday Scripture readings, to help make the Gospel more relevant in the everyday lives of their students. For example, if the Scripture focuses on fairness, the Farrellys encourage teachers and students to discuss how fairness applies in the classroom and in peer relationships.

Every column addresses elementary, middle and high school students, and each week the Farrellys devise two or three activities for each level. According to the Farrellys, the hardest part of writing each individual article is keeping it creative and fresh.

"We use hot issues," Barbara says. "We try to focus on what is going on in the world right now. And we pray for ideas."

The husband-and-wife writing team offer activities that teachers can use to fill an entire class period, and they work to reinforce the academic side of the Scripture. They strive to use an interdisciplinary approach by incorporating and exploring music, film, science, history, writing skills and public speaking.

With two different personalities and writing styles, the Farrellys initially found it difficult to make the articles sound like one voice. However, familiarity will eventually breed coherence, says Barbara, who says she knows what Jim will write before he even begins, and he reads her work before even starting his section.

"He is not allowed to change my section without first asking for my permission," Barbara says with a smile.

-over-

Office of Public Relations

300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679 (937) 229-3241 Fax: (937) 229-3063

<http://www.udayton.edu>

Jim and Barbara have different tastes concerning the Scriptures and each writer has specific favorites.

"I tend to like the Scriptures at the end of the year," Jim says. "They are ominous about the future. I like the warnings and the pressure to follow laws, to do what you are supposed to do."

"I like the prophets," Barbara says. "The off-the-wall, free-spirited stories and characters, like John the Baptist."

Both writers emphasize that it is important to keep self-esteem separate from their project, to keep feelings separate from work.

"We are more critical and honest with each other because of our relationship," Barbara says. "We have the freedom to keep our standards high. When you have your own by-line you learn to be very objective about your own writing."

The writing team did more free-lance writing in the 1960s during their early days at UD but have become more selective about the assignments they accept. They decided to hold on to the series, "A Month of Sundays," as a service project.

"We ultimately believe in Catholic education for children," Barbara says.

- 30 -

For media interviews, contact **Jim Farrelly** at (937) 229-3435 or via e-mail at farrelly@checkov.hm.udayton.edu and **Barbara Farrelly** at (937) 229-3456 or via e-mail at farrellb@checkov.hm.udayton.edu.